

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-19 Cancelled.

20 (Previously Presented). A method for the treatment of a disease involving signalling of a cytokine through IL-2 cyc in the pathogenesis of said disease comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount of NIK or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof, in a subject in need.

21 (Original). The method according to claim 20, wherein the cytokine is IL-12.

22 (Original). The method according to claim 20, wherein the cytokine is IL-15.

23 (Original). The method according to claim 20, wherein the fragment of NIK comprises the C-terminus of NIK (from residue 624 to 947, SEQ ID NO:19).

24 (Original). The method according to claim 20, wherein the fragment of NIK comprises NIK 640-720 (SEQID NO: 18).

25 (Original). The method according to claim 20, wherein the mutant of NIK is AlyNIK.

26-65 Cancelled

66 (Original). A method for the treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which activation of a cytokine, having the common gamma chain in its receptor, is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide fragment of NIK, comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof to a subject in need.

67 (Original). A method according to claim 66, wherein IL-2 is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease.

68 (Original). A method according to claim 66, wherein IL-15 is involved in the pathogenesis of the disease.

69 (Original). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NIK and cyc interaction is involved in the pathogenesis of said disease, comprising administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of NIK, comprising the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a

mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof.

70 (Original). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NF- $\kappa$ B activation is involved, comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a fragment of NIK, corresponding to the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof.

71 (Original). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease in which NF- $\kappa$ B activation is involved, comprising administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a small molecule according to claim 50.

72 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 69, for the treatment of cancer.

73 (Original). A method of treatment and/or prevention of a disease resulting from excessive immune responses, comprising administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide comprising a fragment of NIK, corresponding to the cyc binding domain (SEQ ID NO: 18), or a mutein, variant, fusion protein, functional derivative, circularly permuted derivative or fragment thereof.

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74 (Original). A method according to claim 73, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, or atherosclerosis.

75 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 69, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma, cardiac infarct, Alzheimer's disease, or atherosclerosis.